



Staff Report

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING OPTION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION VACANCY

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

There is a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the City Council will need to determine whether or not to fill the position at this time or leave it vacant until the next regular recruitment period in early 2009.

Background and Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Commission recently experienced two vacancies due to resignations. On July 22nd the Council took action to fill one of the vacancies by appointing Art Andrews, who previously served on the commission but was not reappointed.

This recent appointment leaves one remaining vacancy, the term of which expires in March of 2009. There exists a pool of candidates who were interviewed during the recruitment process earlier this year, three of whom have expressed an interest in being considered. Options regarding the second vacancy were discussed at the July 22nd meeting. Since Councilmember Dickenson was absent at that meeting, it was decided to wait until all five members were present in order to further discuss this matter and decide how to address the vacancy.

Listed below are pros and cons for the various options to consider regarding this vacancy:

- Option 1. Do nothing and leave the position vacant until the next round of commission vacancies (January/February 2009).
Pro: No further action is required by the City Council.
Con: Potential quorum issues; the three remaining candidates may be expecting the Council to take some action regarding their application.

- Option 2: Cast ballots this evening for the three candidates remaining in the pool of applicants already interviewed.
Pro: If one candidate receives three votes, the Commission will be at full force and no further action will be required.
Con: The three remaining candidates may not represent a large enough pool from which to choose a commissioner.

- Option 2. Open the application process for 30 or 60 days (or some other period of time) and direct staff to solicit applicants.
Pro: Soliciting additional applicants may result in a larger pool from which to consider.
Con: Reopening the application process will take additional time, and the Council would have to convene another round of interviews. By the time the application process closes and Council is able to interview candidates and vote on a candidates, there will be just a few months remaining on the term. Anyone appointed to this position would need to reapply in January/February of 2009.

Should the Council wish to consider the three remaining candidates at this time (Option 2), staff will be prepared with a ballot at the meeting, and a draft ballot and resolution regarding that position are attached.

General Plan/Vision Statement

No impact.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Public Contact

This item was posted on the agenda.

Recommendation

Council should discuss the options listed and determine the best course of action. There may be other options besides those provided in this report.

Attachments

- A. Draft Resolution
- B. Draft Ballot
- C. Excerpt of Minutes from February 11, 2008 and March 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Cook
City Clerk
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RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT
MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TO FILL A VACANT TERM TO EXPIRE ON THE FIRST DAY OF MARCH, 2009**

RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Belmont that the following citizen is hereby appointed as Commissioner on the Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire on March 1, 2009.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Belmont on August 12, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont

OFFICIAL BALLOT:

**APPOINTMENT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
(for vacant position expiring March 1, 2009)**

August 12, 2008

Vote for no more than one (1)

KEVIN SULLIVAN

DAVID OARE

REBECCA GRAY

Council Signature

Excerpt of Minutes of February 11, 2008 and March 4, 2008 Commission Interviews

Kevin Sullivan (Parks and Recreation Commission) stated he is very interested in preserving open space and has done volunteer work with trail building in the Water Dog Lake area. He would like to mobilize the bike community and expand that group to include more residents to help with these efforts. He would also like to continue the efforts to maintain parks and sports fields by finding ways to raise funds. He stated that the most effective way to do this by reaching out to the community and being organized. He believes that people do want to help, but that their time is valuable and must be utilized effectively. If he is appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission he would like to represent the interests of all groups and have people come together to achieve goals. He is open to exploring possible locations for alternative sports such as skateboarding in Belmont. He stated that Belmont is a unique community that is well-run and well-maintained by City staff.

Rebecca Gray (Parks and Recreation Commission), described her previous volunteer work on trails in another community. She has a chemistry degree. She was involved in trail building at Waterdog Lake. She described working with staff. She has attended some Parks and Recreation Commission meetings. She utilizes the dog park, and noted the City could use another off-leash area. She would like to improve the City's facilities, and is interested in keeping the trails multi-use. If she were appointed, she would look at all sides of issues, and would be informed and know what the City's goals are.

David Oare (Parks and Recreation Commission), described his work on the trails in Belmont's open space. He follows the Commission's minutes, and would like to take more of an active role. He expressed concern that there may be a desire to make the trails at Waterdog Lake for hikers only. He is a biker who helped improve the trails, and he uses them. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of different users on the trails. He noted that Belmont has many opportunities in its open space areas, which is unique for an urban area. Waterdog Lake is unique and accessible. The dog park is crowded, and is a good social place for people and dogs. Belmont could use another dog park. Discussion ensued regarding the playing field user fee. He stated that people will see the value of the fee if it is used for maintenance.